

My name is Jennifer Zabetakis, a resident of Tolland, Connecticut.

I fully support HB 6517 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS GOVERNING DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING.

HB 6517 will provide the cohesive partnership needed to bring to reality all of the good work that has been made in the state of Connecticut for our youngest Dyslexic residents.

I have been lucky enough to experience one teacher that had been trained in the identification of and appropriate interventions for Dyslexia in our entire school district. This teacher was able to provide accurate identification and appropriate interventions that resulted in measurable progress. Unfortunately, a teacher with this type of training is an extremely rare gem here in the state of Connecticut.

Higher Education has an obligation to prepare Connecticut teachers for the students of today who are demanding a quality education. Dyslexia is in each and every classroom in the country. We can no longer ignore these students who are begging for our help while they fall further and further behind. A piecemeal approach to training is not the solution, and that is how Higher Education is currently approaching dyslexia training. Higher Education and the State of CT are ignoring previously passed laws that would help these students and teachers. This creates chaos in the classroom. Connecticut has all of the right pieces in place, due to previous bills passed, and just needs the right glue to hold them together and that is what HB 6517 will do.

Jennifer Zabetakis